

REMARKS

Applicants' attorney is pleased to note that, at page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that Claims 3-10 contain allowable subject matter. By the foregoing amendments, Claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the features recited in its base claim (i.e., Claim 1) and its intervening claim (i.e., Claim 2). In the foregoing circumstances, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent Claim 3 is in condition for allowance. With respect to Claims 4-10, they depend, either directly or indirectly, from amended independent Claim 3. In such circumstances, it is believed that Claims 4-10 are also in condition for allowance.

As a result from an earlier restriction requirement, Claims 11-14 and 16-23 have been withdrawn from the present application. In order to better place the application in condition for allowance, applicants' attorney has canceled Claims 11-14 and 16-23.

Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Sinn U.S. Patent No. 5,386,908, while Claim 15 has been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Boaz et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,833,099. Claim 15 has also been rejected under 35 USC 112 as being indefinite. These rejections have been obviated by the cancellation herein of Claims 1, 2, and 15.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants' attorney respectfully requests reexamination and allowance of Claims 3-10. If such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is cordially invited to place a telephone call to applicants' attorney in order that any outstanding issue may be resolved without the issuance of a further Office Action.

Appln. No. 10/016,240
Amendment dated February 16, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed November 17, 2004

No fees are believed to be due in connection with the submission of this Amendment. If there are any fees due as a result of this Amendment, including extension and petition fees, the Examiner is authorized to charge them to Deposit Account No. 501402.

Respectfully submitted,

McCARTER & ENGLISH, LLP



By: Sanjiv M. Chokshi
Reg. No. 44,080

McCarter & English, LLP
Four Gateway Center
100 Mulberry Street
Newark, New Jersey 07102
(973) 848-5368

NWK2: 1278376.01